

# LAS VEGAS BACKGAMMON CLUB MAGAZINE

MARCH, 1978



75 cents



# SPRING TOURNAMENTS

DATE	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION
March 5	Rhode Island State Championships	Providence, Rhode Island
March 15 - 29	Mt. Kilimanjaro Backgammon Safari	New York, Nairobi
March 18 - 19	Texas Backgammon Association	Houston, Texas
March 23 - 26	International Backgammon Association Championships - U.S. Open	New Orleans, Louisiana
April 8 - 22	Sheinwold Bridge & Backgammon Cruise from .....	Jan Juan, Puerto Rico
April 14 - 16	Phillip Morris Mediterranean Championships	St. Tropez, France
April 22 - 23	Texas Backgammon Association	Dallas, Texas
April 29 - May 6	Mexican National Circuit Caribbean Cruise from .....	San Juan, Puerto Rico
April 29 - May 14	World Championship Backgammon at Sea Cruise from .....	New York
May 12 - 14	Casino de Divonne	
May 20 - 21	Texas Backgammon	Houston, Texas
May 26 - 29	5th Annual Chicago Cup	Chicago, Illinois

## Tropicana Hotel

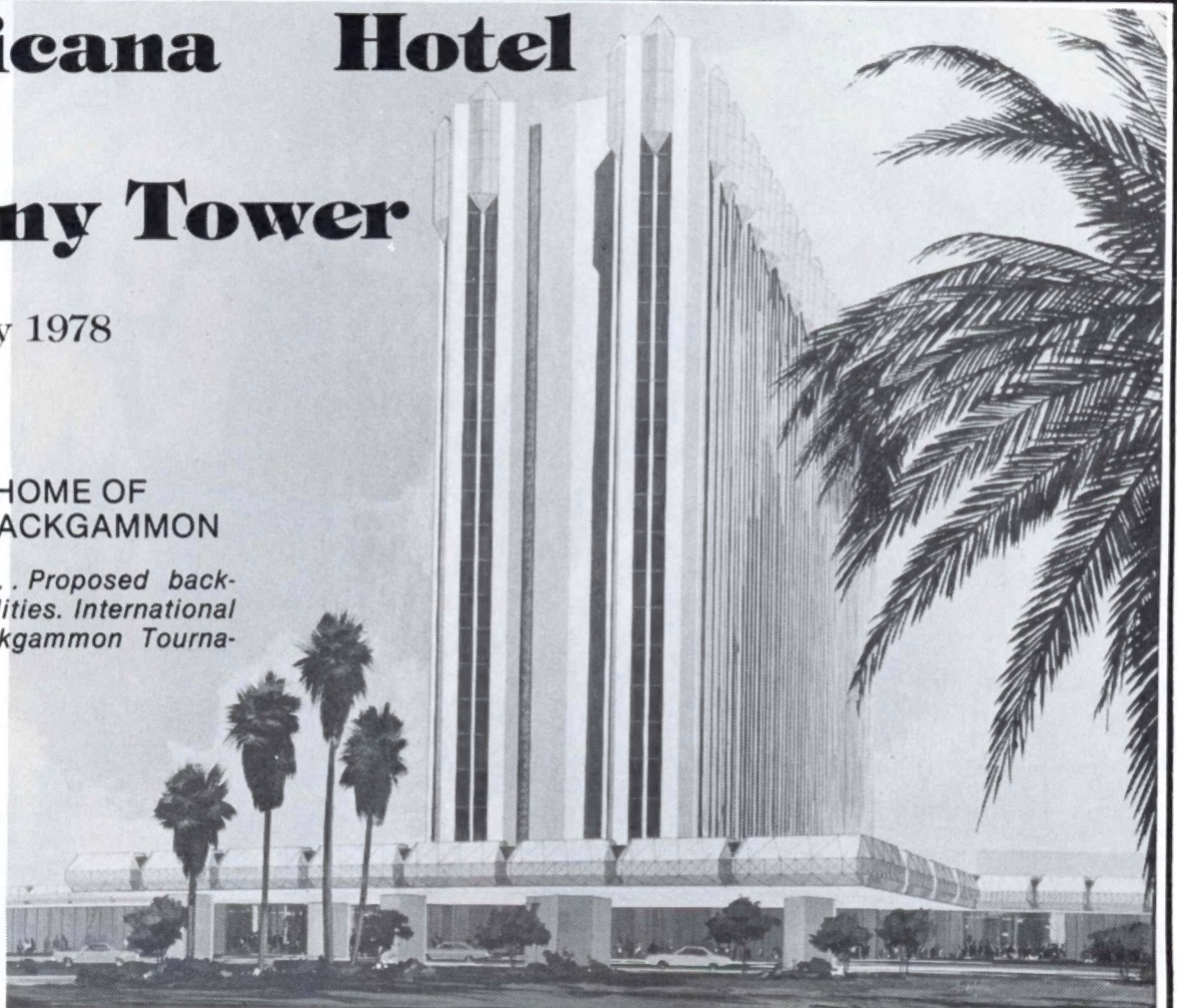
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Schedule of Events  
To Be Announced.





# CHICO WINS!

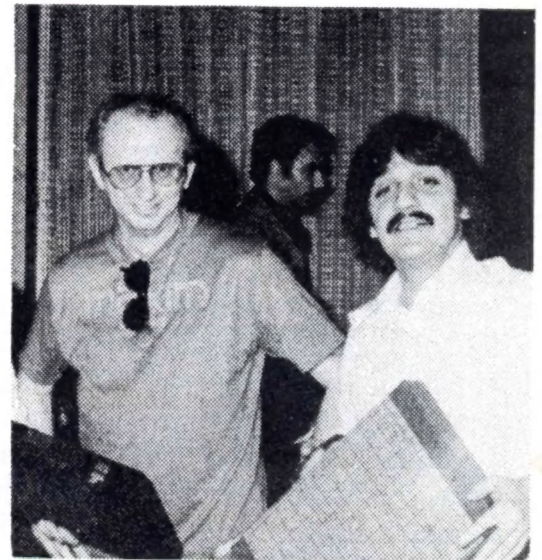
Chico Felberbaum will be in Las Vegas next week. We'll have dinner; we'll play for fifty a point; and go gamble at the tables for awhile like we usually do. He won't even notice the whispers at the club and never once brag about winning the 1st World Amateur Backgammon Tournament. He will be as even tempered as ever. And that is the key to his success. Temperament is the secret in winning backgammon. Flair gets attention: theory gets respect; but temperament gets the money. Chico is \$200,000 richer this month.



Chico Felberbaum  
Edmonton

## WE ALSO RAN . . .

Rarely do L.V.B.C.ers play in a tournament that one of them doesn't place in the money. It was that way in the last three tournaments with Chico Felberbaum winning the amateur title, Michael Maxakuli taking second place in the Billy Eisenberg Cup and the team of Maxakuli-Van Dusen placing second in the Worlds Double Championship. Les Boyd and Sid Jackson ran the Worlds doubles adequately in spite of the handicaps forced upon them. It doesn't matter who won the doubles because it was Van Dusen who was the star. The greatest roller anyone has ever seen. He never lost a race. He never failed to come in on any point board with any number of men. He also left a double shot on a bearing off situation with the cube on 16 in the championship match. Darn!



Winning Team  
Maxakuli-Van Dusen  
Las Vegas



PRESIDENT .....	Michael Maxakuli
VICE-PRESIDENT .....	Alan Jones
SECRETARY/EDITOR.....	Linda Kruegel
PHOTOGRAPHER .....	Alan Jones
CONTRIBUTIONS .....	Dave Thompson, Sid Jackson
CIRCULATION ASSISTANTS .....	Mike Van Dusen, Gordon Ritholz



The first annual Bill Eisenberg Cup was held last weekend at the Cavendish West Club in Los Angeles. Bill Eisenberg, a top West Coast player, was 1975 world champion of backgammon. Nevertheless, he is probably better known for skill in another game, bridge; four times he has been a member of a world championship team.

The tournament, which drew a strong field of 128 players, was won by Gaby Horowitz, who teaches backgammon in the Los Angeles area. He triumphed over Michael Maxakuli, president of the Las Vegas Backgammon Club, in the finals. Chuck Papazian of San Francisco defeated Bill Bartholomay of Chicago to win the consolation flight.

The diagrammed position occurred in the 25-point finals with Maxakuli (X) trailing Horowitz (O) 24-to-16. With Horowitz only one point away from victory, the Crawford Rule, preventing doubling, was in effect. X, with a 4-2 to play, is in a favorable position: X is well ahead in the race and is tactically superior because of his strong home board. The obvious play for X is 6/2, 6/4, covering the blot on his 2-point and moving the two safely inside his home board.

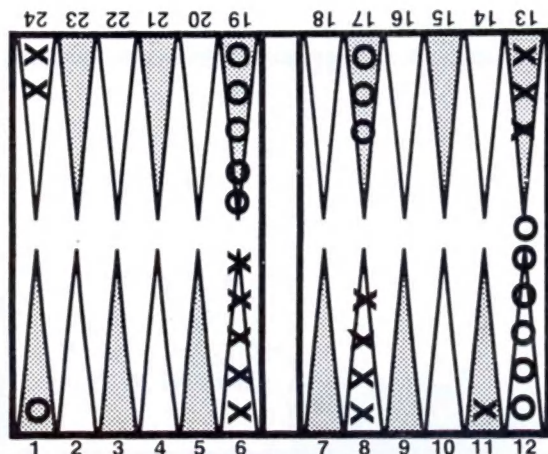
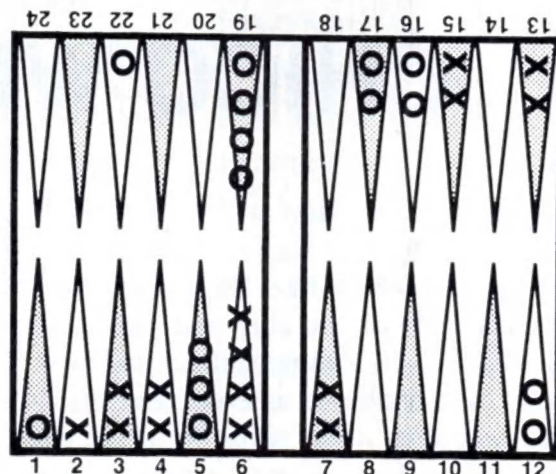
Instead of playing safe, X (Maxakuli) made a better play, 6/2, 15/13. This play leaves X with a single man on his 15-point, exposed to a direct shot. X had good reason to relinquish the 15-point immediately. To see why, it is necessary to look ahead a few rolls and anticipate the game's likely development.

For X to utilize his lead in the race he must bring home his men in O's outfield. Because X has insufficient points in his own outfield on which to land, the only way he can hope to come home without leaving shots is to roll doubles. However, if X delays breaking the 15-point and waits for doubles he actually increases his jeopardy. Every roll he waits, O's home board will grow stronger. In the likely event that X will be forced to leave a shot later, O will be much better prepared to hit.

By breaking his 15-point immediately, X takes his chances before O is properly prepared. O's home board is now extremely weak. If O hits, his game will be disorganized and highly vulnerable. Indeed, O cannot afford a tactical confrontation until he first strengthens his position.

Maxakuli's steep play helped him win this game (in fact, a game), and so keep alive his hopes of winning the match. He scored two more points next game, but then his comeback attempt ended. The final match score was Horowitz 25 to Maxakuli's 20.

Points are numbered 1 to 24, starting with X's home board at the lower left. A move, for example, from the six point to the five point is written 6/5 (6/5\* indicates in addition that a man was hit on the five point 6/5 (2) means that two men were moved to the five point). The symbol □ marks the position of the doubling cube.



You can make either your bar point (moving six from your midpoint and one from your 8-point) or your 5-point (moving six from the 11-point and one from your 6-point). Which of these excellent points should you make?

If O still had two men on your 1-point, you would prefer to make your 5-point. Most modern experts agree that the 5-point tends to be more valuable than the bar point. But since O has managed to escape with one of his back men, you must concentrate on holding the other man in your home board. Therefore in this position you should prefer to make the bar point.



# TOURNAMENT BLUES

Backgammon avoided the black eye widely predicted for it and escaped with only minor cuts and bruises in January's World Amateur Backgammon Championship held at the Hilton and Dunes Hotels in Las Vegas. Amid loudly whispered rumors of administrative bungling and purse money shortfalls, the originally ballyhooed \$1,000,000 tournament saw only \$350,000 distributed in prize money. Winner of the first prize of \$180,000 was Chico Felberbaum of Edmonton, B.C., an L.V.B.C. member.

Although the tournament was organized and run by a group of promoters from the East, the Las Vegas Backgammon Club members can take a large share of credit for helping the tournament run as smoothly as it did. Club members who were asked to serve as officials and monitors sensed immediately that their principal responsibility would be in the area of public relations in soothing the jangled nerves and hurt feelings brought on by administrative snafus. L.V.B.C. President Michael Maxakuli moved quietly about on the sidelines looking out for his own club members who were playing in the tournament.

The players themselves seemed to take the inconveniences in stride. Contestants who were given first-, second-, and even third-round byes because of the inordinate number of no-shows were forced to wait around for hours but seemed genuinely thankful for their "byes". It rarely occurred to them that the wholesale dispensation of byes could only result in a corresponding diminution of the purse money.

Perhaps the saddest irony was that a player who had flown as far as 2,000 miles, paid \$600 in rooms and entry fee, and waited possibly hours for his match, was rewarded with only a single seven point match that likely consumed less than an hour of playing time. If he lost, and understandably was interested in playing more backgammon, he was shuffled off to the second-chance table, where he was asked to pony up another \$100 to play a five-point match. Some players anted up three and four hundred dollars in second chance and consolation fees.

In the end, when the entry fees were added up and distributed as prizes, there were widespread grumblings that the money was divided up among too few people. Fully one-half of the prize money went to the winner, with only a handful of people sharing in what was left.

In fairness to the Eastern organizers, it should be mentioned that the blizzard conditions in the East and Midwest wreaked havoc with travel plans and contributed heavily to the number of no-shows. In addition, an escrow agreement that required the early entries to re-register after the original goal of \$1,000,000 in entry fees fell short provided many with a convenient opportunity to have \$600 returned to them in time for the Christmas holidays. Moreover, the spectre of Jules Klar's "Million Dollar Tournament" hung heavy over the whole proceedings.

On balance, it could all have been handled better, but it may be more to the point to reflect that it could just as easily have been a lot worse. Las Vegas could be forgiven if they were heard to heave a collective sigh of relief when the tournament wound down to its conclusion on Sunday.



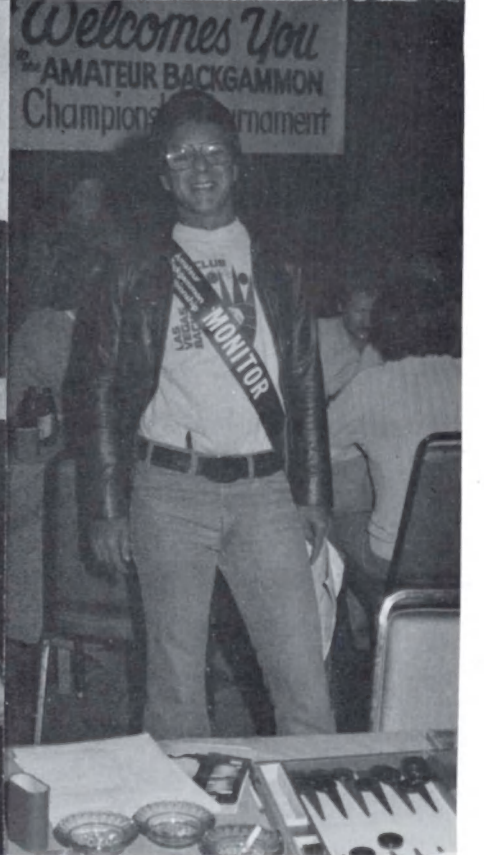
*by Dave Thompson, Valley Times football betting columnist and author of Play Backgammon Tonight.*

## FAT CITY HERE WE COME!

New Orleans in the spring! **U.S. OPEN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP** and doubles tournament: round trip and accommodations at the Hyatt Regency around \$350 total. We will depart Las Vegas Thursday the 23rd of March and return Monday the 27th.

You've heard tales of Accapulco, Nausau, San Francisco and you can get in on our next fun trip to New Orleans. For more information contact Linda at (702) 361-3910. Don't miss it!









# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The tournament is over, the prizes are paid. The bad decisions, the poor planning and the arguments are already fading from everyone's memory. And yet even the inefficiency of the bank couldn't hide the hard work of the hired help. If there were no Roger Love, Bob Ciaffone, Lee Silverstein, Kermit Kimbal, et al., there would have been no event.

Unfortunately, only the size and the numbers were different. The ubiquitous inequities that have historically plagued backgammon are still with us. Max, backgammon is our career. Sooner or later event proprietors must realize that the same responsibility they have to their investment, properly effected, will protect the interest of the participant. Well thought out events are obviously successful for all concerned. Standard enforcement of the rules and competent personnel are becoming more evident, but not everywhere, and not fast enough.

The fact that the 'biggie' actually took place is clearly a milestone for backgammon and obviously a reflection on the growing strength of the backgammon population that allowed the financial backers to risk their money, for which we must thank them.

Again, the lessons for all of us are clear. Success (long term) is contingent upon due regard to the players equity, cooperation with backgammon's commercial vendors and proper dealings with the active backgammon interests throughout the country that represent the lifeblood of the game.

Remember, backgammon, like reality, is for people who can't deal with drugs!

Regards,

Sidney D. Jackson  
Director



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*All articles must be submitted no later than publishing month*



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# Editorial

## BACKGAMMON BUSTS

There is a serious threatening trend that forebodes trouble for backgammon. Backgammon's future is being jeopardized by continued harassment from self righteous authorities. Police, district attorneys and various other upholders of community morals are hassling backgammon players with alarming and ever increasing regularity. In spite of the fact that backgammon has been proven again and again to be a game of skill, the law powers in many communities choose not to see past the dice (in their minds a traditional gambling implement).

In the beginning, it was amusing to hear of an occasional raid or anachronistic ruling. But, now, the increased incidence of anti backgammon stands is starting to worry us.

The Las Vegas Backgammon Club is in the unique position of enjoying the obvious benefits of a pro gambling state. For that same reason, we are contacted by backgammon promoters throughout the country for advice and information when they are harassed. We have run out of suggestions and angles. Each case is unique; but, they all stem from plain ignorance.

It is time for a united effort by backgammon promoters around the country to educate the public. We propose a national fund to be set up and administered by one or several of the well known and respected names in backgammon. The next time a local backgammon entrepreneur is harassed, let's get in there and fight for him with money and expertise. A legal pro-backgammon precedence must be set somewhere no matter how small the community.

Let the backgammon bigwigs who have basked in our admiration for so long get together and earn our esteem. Don't ignore the problem; nip it at the bud now. If not, backgammon will be slowly chopped at till it is nothing but another back alley game.

Don't scoff at our proposal. It is alarmist. But, if you don't believe us ask Milwaukee, Omaha, Detroit, L.A., Miami . . .

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**\$17.00**

### TRAVELING BACKGAMMON SETS

We have ordered an assortment of backgammon boards which are available to members at cost.

**\$20 - \$50**

### T-SHIRT TRANSFERS

We have sold out of T-Shirts and have decided to carry L.V.B.C. emblem transfers instead. Just iron them on your favorite shirt and they will resist up to 50 washings. Very attractive.

**\$2.00**

### HARDWOOD BACKGAMMON

Screened cork playing field, thirty 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " smooth men, four  $\frac{3}{4}$ " dice, 1" doubler, two round rigid cups, compartments for dice and doubler, instructions. Size 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ "x22 $\frac{3}{4}$ "x1 $\frac{1}{8}$ ".

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# Backgammon Bits

**ALAN JONES**, L.V.B.C. Vice-president was the secret buyer of the backgammon table on which the historic final match of the 1st World Amateur Tournament was played; see it on **SIXTY MINUTES**. The **BELLA**KS and the **KEEHNS** back from two weeks in Hawaii — Lucky! **IGNACIO** back with us at **GIBBY'S** — Hooray! **SUZY CREAMCHEESE**, **POWELL CRICHTON**, to Houston; **DAVID BOYER** to Utah; **DOUG CAHILL** to Lake Tahoe; **FRANK CITRO** to Accapulco. **CHUCK GOLLEHER** to Searchlight. **TRUDY GILLETT** almost a real estater; **GORDON RITHOLZ** at the Bagel Nosh. Possible sale of Amateur Backgammon Tournament to new promoters. Possible L.A. vs. L.V. team match in offing. California Open Tournament nearly firm — **SID JACKSON** promoter. **DOMINIC PARISI** off to New York to open his own restaurant/disco. **JACK REYNOLDS** is still doing nothing but he wanted us to mention his name. New owners at Cavendish West — **HUGH SCONYERS?** Drop in to see **ANGELIQUE** do the best show in town at the **CABARET**; plenty of leather and skin. These are some of the local players that braved the Amateur Backgammon Tournament; **SUZY CREAMCHEESE**, **GARY FORD**, **EDDIE HATTORI**, **DON HIATT**, **BILL INCARDONA**, **JOHN JEFFREY**, **ALAN JONES**, **DONNA KUHLE**, **LORNIE KUHLE**, **PEDRO NAVALES**, **CHIP REESE**, **VARTAN SARKISSIAN**, **HAROLD THOMAS**, **MIKE VAN DUSEN**, **ROBERT WILLIAMS**.

Thanks to the fifty two L.V.B.C.ers who volunteered and worked for the Amateur Backgammon Tournament as monitors, officials, etc.

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What's the Answer?



## IMPRESSIONS

### On Almost A Million Dollar Tournament



**QUESTION:** As a player, what was your impression of the January World Amateur Backgammon Championship held in Las Vegas.

#### ANSWERS:

"It was alright, a little messed up but it was alright." *Vartan Sarkissian*

"Good chance for an average player to learn more about the game and at the same time win some serious money." *Bill Incardona*

"It was O.K. but I didn't win." *Harold Thomas*

"It wasn't what I expected it to be."

*Pedro Navales*

"It was pretty shabby, it wasn't what they cracked it up to be. They screwed the locals." *Gary Ford*

"I didn't know they gave weekend passes at Bellevue." *Robert Williams*

"They ought to get a new bank." *Van Dusen*

"Tournament must be simplified." *Dave Porter*

"Super brainstorm full of bugs." *Alan Jones*

"Great fun. It couldn't have been easy, next year it'll be better." *Hermione Somers*

"I was disappointed there were not more participants." *Don Hiatt*

"The matches too short for that kind of money."

*John Jeffrey*

"Offered a unique chance of meeting Backgammon players from all over the world."

*Eddie Hattori*

"Extremely tough going. I was very lucky. Toughest match of all was Dennis Stone in the semi finals. It should have been obvious to everyone that the luckiest player won? That's what Backgammon is after all . . . isn't it?"

*Chico Felberbaum*

## LAS VEGAS TOURNAMENT RESULTS

### OPEN CLASS

1. JOHN ANDERSON
2. DAVE ASHLEY
3. MIKE VAN DUSEN

### BEGINNERS

November 13, 1977

1. ELIAS YARED
2. ANDREA SLINKER
3. CHARLIE JONES
3. GORDON RITHOLZ

November 20, 1977

1. VIC TOURIEL
2. MARY ISON
3. VICTOR GRAY
3. PEDRO NAVALES
1. STEVE STORLAZZI
2. ANDREA SLINKER
3. ZADOK RAHMAN
3. HARRY RUTMAN

November 27, 1977

1. ROBERT GAUNTT
2. NORMAN LE PORE
3. MIKE VAN DUSEN
1. JOHNNY GATTO
2. DON BELLAK
3. FRANK CITRO
3. GLENN HAWKE

December 4, 1977

1. CLARINE
2. RICK HOLBER
3. MONTY MONTGOMERY
3. JOHN ANDERSON
1. JACK REYNOLDS
2. GLENN HAWKE
3. BRIAN MONAHAN
3. CHRIS YOSHIMURA

December 11, 1977

1. JOHN ANDERSON
2. GEORGE AYDELOTT
3. BUD KOZOR
1. BRIAN MONAHAN
2. JOHN KLEINMAN
3. RON KARR

December 18, 1977

1. CLARINE
2. EDDIE HATTORI
3. PEDRO NAVALES
3. JOHNNY GATTO
1. RON KARR
2. TONY MANCARI
3. GORDON RITHOLZ
3. JOHN FORT

January 8, 1978

1. ROBERT WILLIAMS
2. LOUIS PACE
3. GEORGE BULIC
3. DAVID EARL
1. JIM COOPER
2. CHRIS YOSHIMURA
3. HAROLD THOMAS
3. TONY MANCARI

January 15, 1978

1. JOHN ANDERSON
2. ROBERT WILLIAMS
3. DAVID EARL
3. GEORGE BULIC
1. HARRY RUTMAN
2. LINDA WILLIAMS
3. JODI ZWERNER
3. FRED JACOB

January 22, 1978

1. SAM WILSON
2. JO FROME
3. JOHN ANDERSON
1. LEN YELINEK
2. DON BELLAK
3. GORDON RITHOLZ

February 5, 1977

1. ROBIN CLARK
2. MIKE VAN DUSEN
3. CLARINE
3. DON HIATT
1. TONY MANCARI
2. NIKI GALE
3. RON KARR

February 12, 1978

1. DON HIATT
2. MIKE VAN DUSEN
3. CRAIG CHELLSTROP
1. MITCH SHAPIRO
2. GORDON RITHOLZ
3. CARLO KURAJIEA
3. ROBERT VERNOFF

February 19, 1978

1. JACK REYNOLDS
2. DON HIATT
3. MIKE VAN DUSEN
3. GEORGE BULIC
1. VIVIAN YANKO
2. ALAN SCHULZE
3. MARK ESTES









## L.V.B.C.

## POINT

## STANDINGS

John Anderson .....	33	Johnny Gatto .....	6	Monty Montgomery .....	3
Dave Ashley .....	30	John Jeffrey .....	6	Bud Koczor .....	3
Norman Le Pore .....	28	Avi Samanon .....	6	Jim Cooper .....	3
Clarine .....	19	Tony Mancari .....	6	Chris Yoshimura .....	3
Mike Van Dusen .....	18	Gordon Ritholz .....	6	Mitch Shapiro .....	3
George Bulic .....	17	Herb Rapp .....	5	Craig Chellstorp .....	3
Vartan Sarkissian .....	17	Larry Silver .....	5	Linda Williams .....	2
Vic Touriel .....	13	Jim Honek .....	5	Niki Gale .....	2
Pedro Navales .....	13	Bill Incardona .....	5	Larry Greenfader .....	2
Gary Ford .....	13	Robin Clark .....	5	Moshe Rosenblum .....	2
Robert Gromek .....	13	Ron Karr .....	5	John Kleinman .....	2
David Earl .....	13	Sam Wilson .....	4	John Fort .....	2
Don Hiatt .....	11	George Aydelott .....	4	Jeff Gussow .....	2
Terry Bellak .....	10	Mary Ison .....	4	Val Bonjanic .....	1
Robert Gauntt .....	10	Lewis Pace .....	4	Mark Feldman .....	1
Jack Reynolds .....	10	Harry Rutman .....	4	Don Shears .....	1
Jo Frome .....	10	Si Frome .....	4	Lee Horwitz .....	1
Barry Memberg .....	9	Danil Samanon .....	4	David Boyer .....	1
Eddie Hattori .....	9	Len Yelinek .....	3	Orlando Grippo .....	1
Elias Yared .....	9	Mike Yanko .....	3	Dave Everett .....	1
Robert Williams .....	9	Kenny Chin .....	3	Henry Ehrenhaft .....	1
Andrea Slinker .....	8	Marty Stein .....	3	Zadok Rahmani .....	1
Susan Keehn .....	7	Mikki Rossin .....	3	Frank Citro .....	1
Brian Monahan .....	7	Don Naifeh .....	3	Harold Thomas .....	1
Don Bellak .....	7	Eli Brush .....	3	Jodi Zwerner .....	1
Glenn Hawke .....	7	Eddie Lopez .....	3	Alaina Nabit .....	1
Dominic Parisi .....	6	Cherie Bowen .....	3	Carlo Kurajiea .....	1
Richard Schwartz .....	6	Charlie Jones .....	3	Robert Vernoff .....	1
Steve Storlazzi .....	6	Victor Gray .....	3		

\*1977-78 Point race coming to a close soon

## Calgary — New L.V.B.C. Associate

**PAUL VAN LARR** long time L.V.B.C. member and ex-Las Vegas resident recently announced the formation of the **CALGARY GAMMON & GAMES SOCIETY** located at 636 11th Avenue S.W., Calgary (604 265-9400). The Club, managed by Chuck Querido, features two backgammon rooms, a T.V. lounge, card room, pool table, video games and library. The reasonable membership fee includes access to monthly tournaments directed by Wayne Roberts. Already this month the 140 member club has announced a major tournament to be sponsored by Benson & Hedges (Canada) Ltd., and to be known as the Viscount Backgammon Tournament.

We are really proud to be associated with the Calgary Gammon & Games Society and wish them the best of luck. It is just this kind of grass roots backgammon club that is going to insure the future of backgammon.



# BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENTS

every **SUNDAY**  
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George Aydelott  
Helen Campbell  
Craig Chellstorp  
Frank Citro  
Carol Cole  
John Coppa  
Albert Ertsinian  
Stan Fulton  
Niki Gale  
Johnny Gatto  
Chuck Golleher

Manuel Gorman  
John Greer  
Robert Harrison  
Randy Hoff  
Debra Howard  
Fred Jacob  
Mitch Jaynes  
Rachel Karr  
Richard Kiskis  
Carlo Kurajiea  
Doreen Leonard

Vic Medvjed  
Monty Montgomery  
Alaina Nabit  
Louis Pace  
Cecelia Passeri  
Michael Pickert  
Dr. Reza Rassa  
Harry Rutman  
Alan Schulze  
Bobby Schwing  
Mitch Shapiro  
David Sidman

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Gary Watson  
Dorsey Weiss  
Jerry Weiss  
Carol Welch  
Linda Williams  
Chris Yoshimura  
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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

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